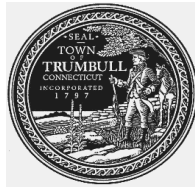


TOWN COUNCIL
Town of Trumbull
CONNECTICUT
www.trumbull-ct.gov

TOWN HALL
Trumbull

TELEPHONE
(203) 452-5005



MINUTES
April 15, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: A special meeting of the Trumbull Town Council was called to order at 7:38 p.m. by Chairman Carl A. Massaro, Jr. All present joined in a moment of silence and the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL: The Clerk called the roll and recorded it as follows:

David Pia	Jeffrey Jenkins	Carl A. Massaro, Jr.
Suzanne Testani	John Rotondo	Michael London
Michael Rappa	Kristy Waizenegger	James Meisner
Jane Deyoe	Debra Lamberti	Tony Scinto
Robert J. Pescatore, Jr.	John DelVecchio, Jr.	Chad Ciocci
Mary Beth Thornton	Martha Jankovic-Mark	Roberta Bellows
Ann Marie Evangelista	Daniel Helfrich	

Absent: Mark Altieri

Also Present: Director of Finance Maria Pires.

The Chair stated that the business of this meeting is to adopt the budget for the fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2010 ending June 30, 2011. Under the Charter of the Town of Trumbull reductions by the Trumbull Town Council of the budget recommended by the Board of Finance are by a majority vote of the council members present; additions to line items of the budget requires a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the entire membership (14 votes). The final budget vote tonight will be by a majority vote of the members present and voting. There have been many hours spent by people elected and employed along with many citizens' input, all should be applauded and respected for their efforts.

* Chairman Carl A. Massaro, Jr. exercised his right not to vote unless otherwise noted.

Item 1. RESOLUTION TC23-57: Moved by Mr. Ciocci, seconded by Mr. DelVecchio.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the annual budget for the Town of Trumbull for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2011, as recommended by the Board of Finance and amended by the Town Council, be and the same is hereby adopted and that the sums stated therein as amended for their respective purposes be and the same are hereby appropriated.

01 – General Government

First Selectman 01010400

Mr. Scinto moved, seconded by Mr. Pescatore to amend account #567704 (Transportation – Expense A/C) with a reduction of \$2,500.

VOTE: Passed unanimously 19-0.

Tax Assessor 01011600

Moved by Mr. Pescatore, seconded by Ms. Testani to amend account #501101 (Salaries FT/Permanent) with a reduction of \$26,463.

Mr. Meisner requested an explanation for the reduction. Mr. Pescatore stated after working with the department the reduction is due to the restructuring of the department. There is a retirement of one position, the deputy director, effective in May 2010. Part of the deputy director's salary has been removed and the other part has been put into another, this allows for the removal of one position in the department.

VOTE: Passed 19-0 unanimously

Moved by Mr. Pescatore, seconded Mr. Pia to amend account #501106 (Salaries/Longevity) by \$425.

Mr. Pescatore stated that this reduction is due to the retirement of the deputy director, the department has confirmed that this amount would no longer be needed in the account.

VOTE: Passed 19-0 unanimously.

Town Hall 01013800

Ms. Bellows moved, seconded by Mr. Pescatore to amend account #534401 (Materials & Supplies-Office) with a reduction of \$4,000.

Mr. Meisner requested a justification for the reduction. Ms. Bellows stated that this amount represents a general reduction of 10% to save on costs.

VOTE: Passed 14-4-1 (Against: Thornton, DelVecchio, Meisner and Helfrich) (Abstention: Rotondo).

Ms. Bellows moved, seconded by Mr. Pescatore to amend account #522208 (Communications-Postage) with a reduction of \$3,000.

Mr. DelVecchio requested a justification for the reduction, noting that postage costs are going up. Ms. Bellows stated the Town will use electronic communication whenever possible and the town will be more efficient wherever possible.

Vote: Passed 19-0 unanimously.

Planning and Zoning 01014200

Ms. Lamberti moved, seconded by Ms. Testani to amend account #545501 (Communications-Legal Notices) with a reduction of \$1,000.

Ms. Thornton noted that the actual run rate last year was \$9,035, requesting an explanation how the legal notices would be reduced. Ms. Lamberti stated there has been a general slow down of building and P&Z activity due to the economy.

Vote: Passed 18-1 (Against: London)

Zoning Board of Appeals 01014400

Ms. Lamberti moved, seconded by Ms. Evangelista to amend account #545501(Communications-Legal Notices) with a reduction of \$1,000.

VOTE: Passed 18-1 (Against: London)

Employee Benefits 01013400

Mr. Ciocchi moved, seconded by Ms. Lamberti to amend account #511150 (Fringe Benefits-FICA) with a reduction of 9,453.

Mr. Ciocchi stated that there are 2 vacant positions and other restructuring efforts throughout the administration, which allows for the reduction of funds. Ms. Pires suggested that this item of business be discussed at the end of all 01- General Government accounts.

Mr. Ciocchi withdrew his motion.

02 - Public Safety

Police 01022000

Ms. Testani moved, seconded by Mr. Pescatore to amend account #501101 (Salaries-Full/ Permanent) with a reduction of \$97,112.

Mr. Rotondo requested justification for the reduction. Ms. Testani stated that the reduction represents the salaries of two (2) police officer vacancies. The Town of Trumbull has been operating with a robust 72 officers. The town has been operating with this amount of officers for several years; the town is looking forward to the possibility of stimulus funds available in 2010 and the false alarm abatement ordinance which is expected to save the department \$57,000 to \$60,000, approximately the cost of one police officer.

VOTE: Passed 13-6 (Against: Thornton, DelVecchio, Rotondo, Rappa, Meisner and Helfrich).

Ms. Testani moved, seconded by Ms. Deyoe to amend account #501105 (Salaries-Overtime) with a reduction of \$20,000.

Mr. DelVecchio requested justification for this reduction. Ms. Testani stated this is in excess of the overtime budget.

VOTE: Passed: 12-7 (Against: London, Thornton, DelVecchio, Rotondo, Rappa, Meisner and Helfrich).

Ms. Testani moved, seconded Ms. Lamberti to amend account #534401 (Materials & Supplies-Office) with a reduction of \$1,500.

Mr. Meisner requested justification for the reduction. Ms. Testani stated the reduction represents a 10% reduction across the board.

VOTE: Passed 13-6 (Against: London, Thornton, DelVecchio, Rotondo, Meisner and Helfrich).

Fire Marshal 01022800

Ms. Evangelista moved, seconded by Ms. Testani to amend account #501105 (Salaries-Overtime) with a reduction of \$1,000.

Ms. Evangelista stated that call volume for this department has gone down over the last few years.

Mr. DelVecchio stated that the fire marshal over time account is based upon actual time there is no minimum, questioned cutting the over time account where they are already paid significantly less to comparable towns.

VOTE: Passed 11-8 (Against: London, Mark, Thornton, DelVecchio, Rotondo, Rappa, Meisner and Helfrich).

Ms. Evangelista moved, seconded by Mr. Scinto to amend account #581888 (Capital Outlay) with a reduction of \$500.

Mr. Meisner requested confirmation of whether the department had been consulted and if this line item included software for the department. Mr. Pescatore stated the amount has been based upon the cost of a printer; it does not represent the cutting of purchasing a printer, only to increase the efficiency of the purchase. In response to Mr. DelVecchio, Mr. Pescatore stated that the line item is strictly for the purchase of hardware per the budget book/spreadsheets provided by the Finance department. In response to Mr. Rotondo, Ms. Pires stated that the Town is not under contract with any one vendor and could go out to bid to get the very best price.

VOTE: Passed 13-5-1 (Against: London, Thornton, Meisner, Rappa, Helfrich)
(Abstention: DelVecchio).

Emergency Management 01023400

Mr. Pia moved, seconded by Ms. Testani to amend account #501105
(Salaries Overtime) with a reduction of \$7,564.08.

Mr. Rotondo requested justification of the reduction. Mr. Pia stated that the reduction represents over time for the Director to be reduced from four (4) hours per week to three (3) hours. Mr. Pescatore stated that there is an Assistant Director who works 19.5 hours per week and a Director who is budgeted for 4 hours of over time per week at \$68.00 per hour. Reducing the over time to 3 hours per week, still leave 22.5 hours per week dedicated to Emergency Management. Reducing the overtime by one (1) hour per week will not impact the safety of the town and are looking for some efficiency. Mr. DelVecchio appreciates the quest for efficiency and spoke against the motion due to safety concerns.

Vote: Passed 12-7 (Against London, Thornton, DelVecchio, Rotondo, Rappa, Meisner and Helfrich).

Mr. London called point of order, noting that the 02 account total needed to be voted on.

Mr. Ciocchi moved, seconded by Ms. Deyoe to approve the 02- Public Safety Accounts Total of \$10,143,909 representing a reduction of \$128,676.

VOTE: Passed 13-6 (Against: Thornton, DelVecchio, Rotondo, Rappa, Meisner and Helfrich).

02-Public Safety Account Total \$10,143,909 (\$128,676 Reduction)

03 - Public Works

Public Works – Street Lights

Mr. London requested, as he has in past years, that the Public Works Director to investigate into whether certain select street lights could be removed in order to create a savings in this line item.

Public Works-Highway 01030100

Mr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Ms. Waizenegger to amend account #501103
(Salaries –Seasonal /Temp) with a reduction of \$7,500.

Mr. Rotondo requested justification. Mr. Jenkins stated that this represents the reduction of summer/seasonal help by one half. Mr. Meisner stated that students need summer work and would not want to cut this particular item. Mr. Pescatore stated that the First Selectman had reduced this item to zero, the Board of Finance restored this line item with \$15,000; the Town Council has compromised by a reduction of half of the BoF level. The students will still be able to apply for the jobs and it will afford some of them work, the full amount is not appropriate at this time.

Mr. DelVecchio stated that the full time positions are scheduled to take vacations when the seasonal help is plentiful, speaking against the reduction.

Mr. Rotondo questioned what would be given up with this reduction.

Ms. Testani spoke in favor of efficiency with the staff that the town already has.

Mr. Pescatore stated that the town would like to maximize the resources they already have; management of the crew during the summer is a management issue that can be addressed within the department in order to maintain proper levels of staffing throughout the year.

Vote: Passed 12-6-1 (Against: London, Mark, Thornton, Meisner, Delvecchio, Helfrich) (Abstention: Rotondo).

Mr. Pescatore moved, seconded by Ms. Lamberti to amend account #501105 (Salaries-Overtime) with a reduction of \$2,500.

Mr. Pescatore stated the reduction is due to offering a subsidized price offered to reduce the overtime.

Mr. Meisner stated that this is overtime for snowplowing. Mr. Pescatore clarified that there is a separate line item for snow removal; this line item would not effect snow removal.

VOTE: Passed 13-5-1 (Against: Mark, Thornton, Meisner, Rotondo and Helfrich) (Abstention: DelVecchio).

Mr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Ms. Waizenegger to amend account #522203 (Services & Fees-Ancillary) with a reduction \$5,000.

Mr. DelVecchio stated this item represents the extra funds to assist the personnel with the leaf pick-up program, speaking against this reduction due to public and street safety.

Mr. Pescatore stated that the reduction would not impact the leaf program; there are efficiencies that could be put in place, such as registrations, which would save even more than this reduction.

Mr. Meisner questioned if there would be start up costs associated with the registration.

Mr. Pescatore stated there are assistants already employed, which would be able to receive and enter the registrations, although noting it was a suggestion to the department, not a directive.

VOTE: Passed 12-7 (Against: London, Mark, Thornton, Meisner, Rotondo, and Helfrich. DelVecchio.

Mr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Ms. Evangelista to amend account # 589901 (Rentals-Annual Rentals/Lease) with a reduction of \$45,000.

Mr. London requested that a representative from the department speak to the equipment's condition. The Chair noted that no one present. Mr. Pescatore stated that at the Finance Committee budget hearing, Mr. Marsillio, Director of Public works had stated that the

department currently has two (2) operational street sweepers, in good working order, they do frequently need maintenance. Mr. Pescatore stated it would be safe to defer the purchase for one year. Mr. DelVecchio noted that Mr. Marsillio had also noted that the street sweepers are very technical pieces of equipment, with thousands of moving parts, the brushes have a lot of wear and tear. Mr. DelVecchio stated there was a tremendous amount of sand used this winter. If one of the sweepers were down, then the town would have to rent another or be without. To defer the purchase any more could cause a safety issue, speaking against the reduction.

VOTE: Passed 12-7 (London, Thornton, Rappa, Rotondo, DelVecchio, Meisner and Helfrich).

Highway-Construction 01030105 522205

Mr. DelVecchio stated that there are approximately 240 miles of roads in the town of Trumbull with a shelf life of 20 years, we would need to pave 11-12 miles per year in order to keep up with the demands of our streets and infrastructure, and the cost is approximately \$175,000 to mill and pave one mile. We have \$250,000 budgeted and LOCIP in addition to the budgeted amount. That's enough to pave 3-4 miles of roads this year, we did not pave as much last year as well; if we do not stay on schedule this year we will pay in spades at a later date.

The Chair noted that in addition to what has been budgeted, the town has received a grant to pave Whitney Avenue as well, which will be done this year.

Public Works- Maintenance/Fleet 01030200

Mr. Scinto moved, seconded by Ms. Deyoe to amend account # 567701 (Transportation-Gas-Oil, Grease) with a reduction of \$3,280.

Mr. Scinto stated this reduction represents a 10% reduction; the prior costs had been very high and have come down in cost.

Mr. Meisner noted the prices of gasoline and diesel have been rising again, it could be a risk.

Mr. Pescatore noted the audited amount, the costs have come back down; the reduction should not impact the department.

Mr. Meisner noted that the 2008-2009 prices varied greatly from high to low.

Vote: Passed 13-6 (Against: London, Thornton, Meisner, DelVecchio, Rappa, Rotondo and Helfrich).

Mr. Scinto moved, seconded by Ms. Lamberti to amend account #567702 (Transportation-Vehicle Repair) with a reduction of \$3,350.

VOTE: Passed 14-3-2 (Against: London, Helfrich, and Meisner) (Abstention: Thornton and Rotondo).

Town Engineer 01030500

Ms. Deyoe moved, seconded by Ms. Waizenegger to amend account #534401 (Materials & Supplies-Office) with a reduction of \$500.

Ms. Deyoe noted that this reduction represents a 10% reduction across the board, and would like to see the town go more paperless utilizing more electronic communication. Ms. Thornton questioned if this had to do with the GIS, Mr. Pescatore stated this was strictly office supplies.

VOTE: Passed 12-6-1 (Against: Mark, London, Thornton, Meisner, Helfrich and DelVecchio) (Abstention: Rotondo).

Ms. Testani moved, seconded by Mr. Pia to approve the new 03-Public Works Total of \$7,787,148 representing a reduction of \$67,130.

VOTE: Passed 12-7 (Mark, Thornton, DelVecchio, Meisner, Rappa, Helfrich and Rotondo).

03 - Public Works Total- \$7,787,148 (\$67,130 Reduction)

04 - Public Health Account Total Remains Unchanged: \$303,559

05 – Social Service Account Total Remains Unchanged: \$570,548

06 - Education 01060000

Mr. Ciocchi moved, seconded by Ms. Lamberti to amend account #522205 (Program Expenses) with a reduction of \$519,000.

Mr. Ciocchi stated that this reduction was difficult to make, he had gone through the school system himself, this was done with much thought and reflection. Over the past five years the BoE has returned on average the proposed amount (\$519,000), and commends the board for the return. If the town should over budget for any item that results in over taxing the residents of Trumbull, to over tax even by a penny would not be right. The BoE will be returning between \$1.2 million to \$1.8 million this year. This does show that there is some over budgeting. If the board is in a position that programs will be impacted and that they can not give back and are in deed in need, Mr. Ciocchi requested that they come to him and he will submit the motion to give the BoE a portion back, but spoke against over budgeting.

Mr. London commended the BoE for returning the funds over the past five years. Many teachers and parents have been given significant misinformation about what would happen if the reduction were to happen, and was dismayed by learning that the teacher's union had not gone to their membership regarding some simple concessions.

Mr. London moved to amend the motion to amend account #522205 (Program Expenses) with a reduction of \$750,000.

Hearing no second to the motion, the motion failed.

Return to the main motion.

Mr. Meisner stated that the unions had made concessions during the last contract round. Trumbull is in the bottom 1/3 of the state on spending per pupil, the reduction would be

risky for the students and the education system. There is nothing more valuable than our young people to invest in.

Ms. Thornton stated that we need to trust in our elected officials on the BoE. In recent years the BoE has been transparent and have returned quite a bit of funding.

Mr. Pescatore stated that he appreciates the BoE doing their due diligence in returning the funds, Mr. Ciocci's motion is approximately the average amount the BoE has returned and has been given over the recent years. Mr. Pescatore spoke in favor and commended the teachers and the educational system.

Mr. Rotondo stated that \$750,000 of the amount to be returned this year is based on energy budgets, they have budgeted this year based on lower amounts, this needs to be factored in. This year's budget is not over budgeted.

Mr. Rappa spoke against reducing the education side of the budget. Trumbull needs to continue to strive to hold its good educational reputation that it has worked so hard to achieve.

Mr. DelVecchio stated that he has spoken with Mr. Wright, and Mr. Crooks, the money to be returned this year is from medical costs and energy costs, commending Mr. Kennedy for the energy savings to be generated. March and April of this year were much warmer than typical years, the energy savings may not be available next year. The BoE has become much more transparent over the past 4-5 years and commended them for that. Ms. Mark stated that what has been returned by the BoE in the past is not indicative of what will be returned in the future.

Mr. Meisner moved, seconded by Mr. DelVecchio to request a roll call vote.
Four (4) votes are required for this motion to pass.

VOTE: Passed 6-0

The clerk called the roll and recorded the Ayes and Nays as follows:

*The Chair voted.

Aye

Massaro

Pia

Testani

Deyoe

Pescatore

Evangelista

Waizenegger

Lamberti

Scinto

London

Ciocci

Nay

Rappa

Thornton

Bellows

Jenkins

Rotondo

DelVecchio

Mark

Meisner

Helfrich

VOTE: Passed: 11-9 (Against: Rappa, Thornton, Bellows, Jenkins, Rotondo, DelVecchio, Mark, Meisner, and Helfrich)

The Chair called a recess at 9:08 p.m.

The Chair called the meeting back to order at 9:19 p.m.

Mr. Pescatore moved, seconded by Ms. Deyoe to approve the 06 – Education Accounts Total of \$93,402,635 representing a reduction of \$519,000.

VOTE: Passed 11-8 (Against: Jenkins, Mark, Thornton, DelVecchio, Rappa, Meisner, Rotondo and Helfrich).

06- Education Accounts Total - \$93,402,635 (\$519,000 Reduction)

07 – Libraries 01070000

Mr. Pia moved, seconded by Mr. London to approve the 07 Libraries account as \$1,520,518.

VOTE: Passed 19-0 unanimously.

07- Libraries Accounts Remain Unchanged - \$1,520,518

08 – Recreation

Public Events 01080000

Ms. Deyoe moved, seconded by Mr. Pescatore to amend account #522205 (Program Expenses) with a reduction of \$5,000.

Ms. Thornton requested justification of the reduction. Mr. Pescatore stated that the Memorial Day Parade is fully funded, there are other events such as the Holiday Party and the Boards and Commissions dinner which could be reduced. The administration will decide on which events would be reduced.

VOTE: Passed 14-5 (Against: Thornton, DelVecchio, Rotondo, Rappa and Helfrich).

Parks - 01080600

Ms. Deyoe moved, seconded by Mr. Pescatore to amend account #501103 (Salaries-Seasonal/Temp) with a reduction of \$6,000.

Mr. Meisner spoke against the reduction citing that it is important to the students to have summer work to return to.

Mr. London agreed with the conclusion not the logic. The part time seasonal help is necessary for a purpose.

Ms. Testani stated that the reduction represents half, it has not been eliminated.

Mr. Rotondo stated he had spoken with Mr. Paris, Director of Parks, there is a need for the seasonal help due to the increase usage over the summer months.

VOTE: Passed 11-7-1 (Against: Mark, London, Helfrich, Thornton, Meisner, Rappa, DelVecchio) (Abstention: Rotondo).

Mr. Pescatore moved, seconded by Mr. Scinto to amend account#501105 (Salaries-Overtime) with a reduction of \$2,500.

Mr. Pescatore stated the Public Works department providing seasonal help will off set the over time reduction.

VOTE: Failed 9-10 (Against: Testani, Bellows, Pia, London, Thornton, DelVecchio, Rappa, Rotondo, Helfrich and Meisner).

Ms. Waizenegger, seconded Ms. Mark to amend account #534402 (Program Supplies) with a reduction of \$5,000.

VOTE: Passed 12-7 (Against: London, Thornton, DelVecchio, Rappa, Rotondo, Helfrich and Meisner).

Mr. Pia moved, seconded by Mr. London to approve the 08- Recreation New Total as \$2,210,759 representing a \$16,000 reduction.

VOTE: Passed 13-6 (Against: Thornton, DelVecchio, Rappa, Rotondo, Helfrich and Meisner).

08 – Recreation Accounts New Total- \$2,210,759 (\$16,000 Reduction)

09- Debt Service Accounts Remain Unchanged \$4,184,529

01 – General Government Cont'd.

01 - Employee Benefits 01013400

Mr. Ciocchi moved, seconded by Mr. Scinto to amend account #51150 (Fringe Benefits/FICA) with a reduction of \$10,797.

The reduction represents the reduction of salaries on the town side of the budget. Ms. Pires confirmed the amount of the reduction.

VOTE: Passed 19-0 unanimously

Mr. Pescatore moved, seconded by Mr. Pia to amend account #511151 (Fringe Benefits-Medical/Dental) with a reduction of \$57,000.

Ms. Pires confirmed that the amount represents 3 positions and is the correct amount.

VOTE: Passed 19-0 unanimously.

Ms. Testani moved, seconded by Mr. Ciocchi to approve the 01- General Government New Total of \$15,845,879.

VOTE: Passed 16-3 (Against: Meisner, Helfrich and Rappa).

01 – General Government New Total- \$15,845,879 (\$107,185 Reduction).

General Fund Balance

Mr. Ciocchi moved, seconded by Ms. Lamberti to approve the General Fund Balance as \$135,969,484 representing a \$837,991 reduction.

VOTE: Passed 13-6(Against: Thornton, DelVecchio, Rappa, Rotondo, Helfrich and Meisner).

Total General Fund Balance \$135,969,484 (\$837,991 Reduction)

10 Enterprise Funds

Sewer-WPCA-Enterprise 01100000

Mr. Pia, seconded by Mr. Pescatore to accept as presented and approved by the BoF.

Vote: Passed 19-0 unanimously

Tashua Knolls-Golf-Enterprise 21100000

By unanimous consent the Town Council accepted as presented Tashua Knolls-Golf Enterprise.

Vote: Passed 19-0 unanimously

Moved by Mr. London, seconded by Mr. Pia to Approve the 2010-2011 Town of Trumbull Grand Total Budget as amended at \$143,479,636 (\$837,991 Reduction).

Vote: Passed 13-6 (Against: Thornton, DelVecchio, Rappa, Rotondo, Helfrich and Meisner).

Grand Total Budget New Total - \$143,479,636 (837,991 Reduction)

Mr. Helfrich moved, seconded by Mr. DelVecchio to adjourn

There being no further business to discuss the Trumbull Town Council adjourned at 9:43 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret D. Mastroni,
Council Clerk